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HARTWELL WAREHOUSE, INC.

1066 OLD BRISTOL PIKE
MORRISVILLE, PA 19067

Fax 215-295-5150
Office 215-295-7143
Warehouse 215-788-6638

Honorable Dan Elliott, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW, Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001
FAX: (202) 245-0452

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Dear Chairman Elliott:

The intent of this letter is to file comments in anticipation of the STB railroad competition hearing (Docket # EP 705) scheduled for June 22, 2011.

We are writing to express Hartwell's support for a strong freight railroad network across the nation.

Because of their tremendous impact on the U.S. economy and the increasing growth opportunities for the industry, we believe that any attempt to re-regulate railroads will have a negative impact on our country.

North America's freight railroads have announced plans to invest more than \$12 billion in 2011 to enhance and maintain their infrastructure. As you know, each \$1 billion spent on rail infrastructure supports 20,000 jobs. Under the current, reasonable regulatory environment, U.S. freight railroads are creating jobs and improving their infrastructure throughout the nation.

Freight rail is the most capital intensive industry in the nation, and it is imperative that continued reinvestment be encouraged. With everyone under pressure to expand the economy and create jobs, any action by the Surface Transportation Board to adopt policies that would discourage private investment would be counterproductive.

I appreciate your consideration of our concerns, and hope the Board will work to ensure a healthy freight rail network that continues to provide a true public benefit to our nation.

Sincerely,



William Hartwell
President